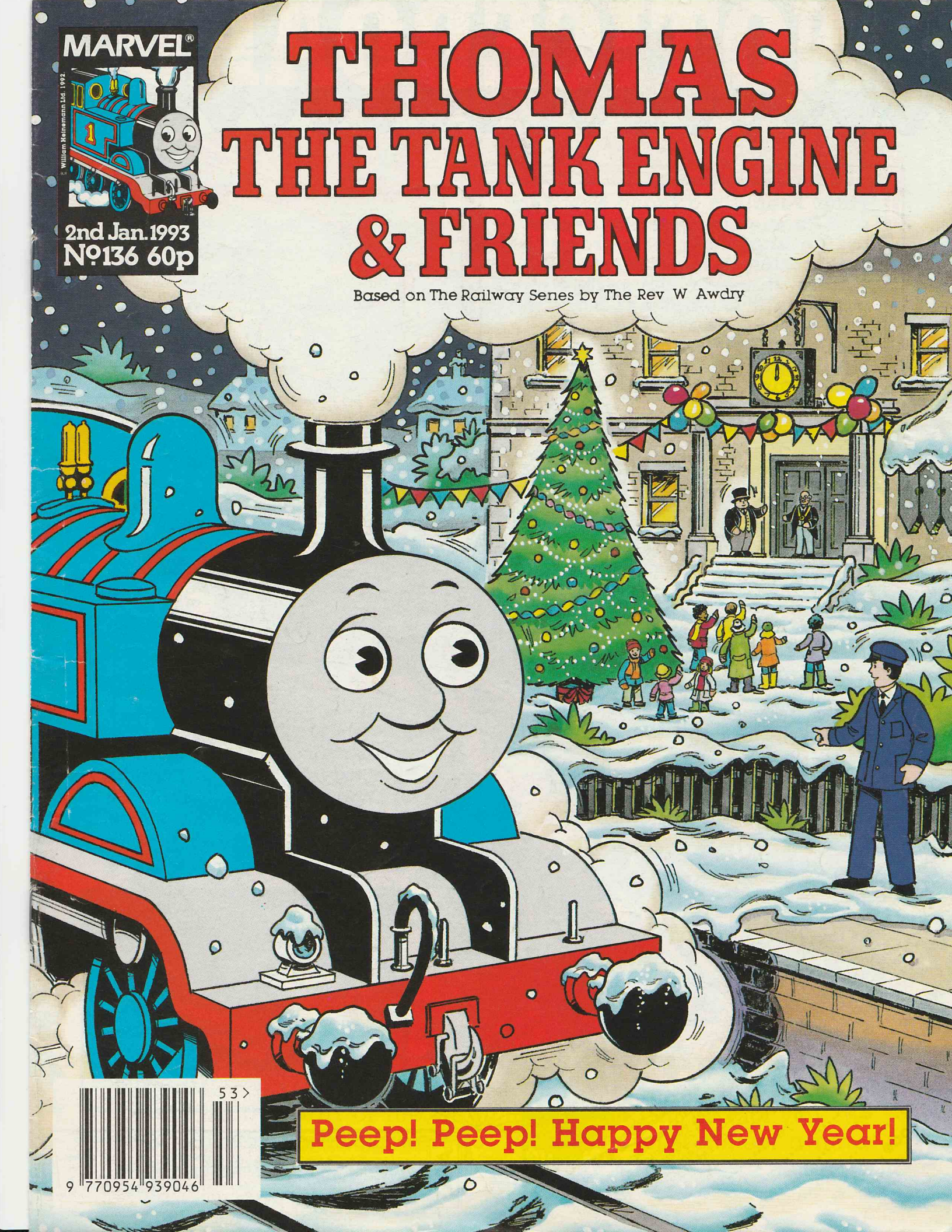
MARVEL®
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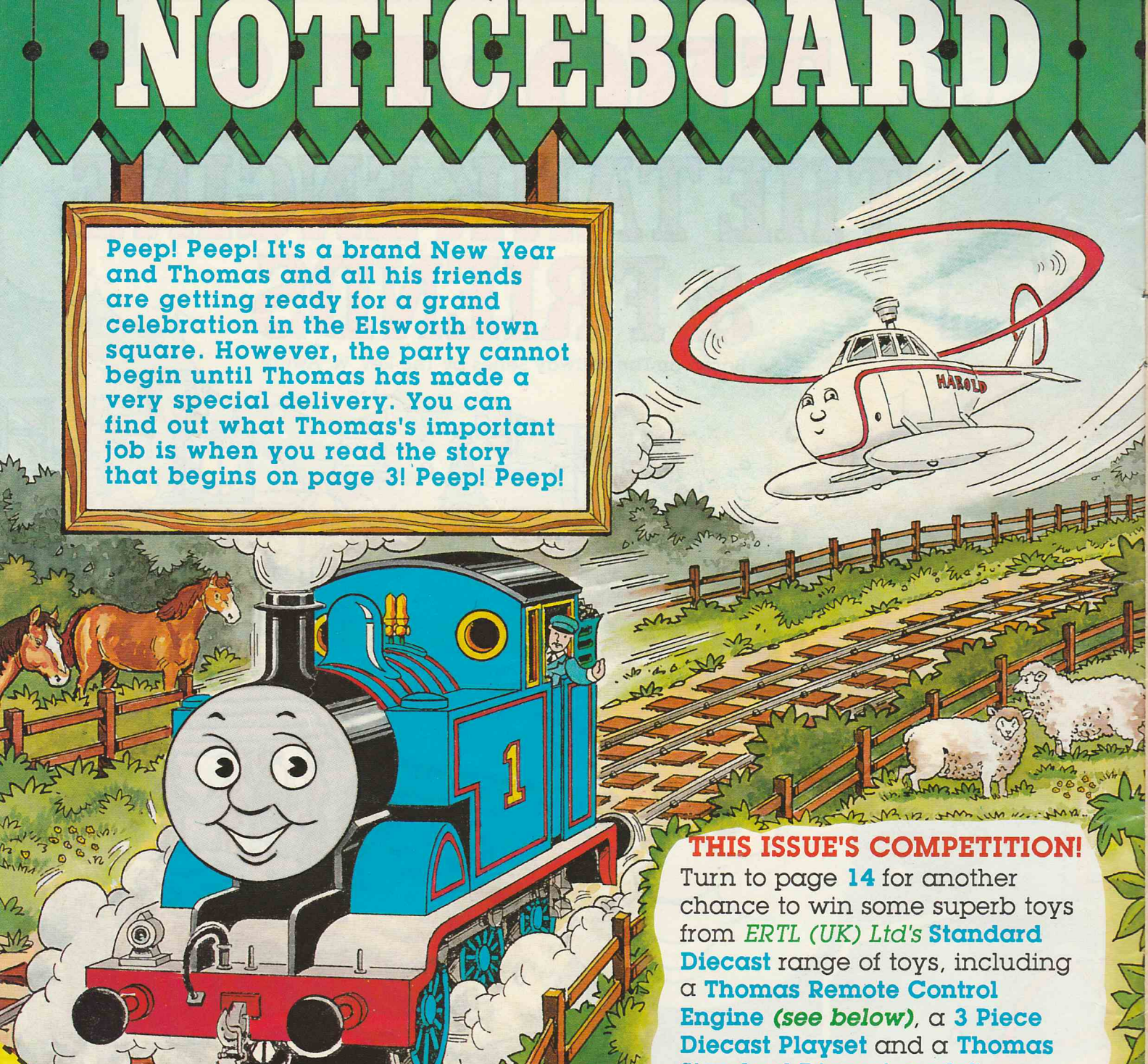
2nd Jan. 1993
No136 60p
THOMAS
THE TANK ENGINE
& FRIENDS
Based on The Railway Senes by The Rev W Awdry
Peep! Peep! Happy New Year!
53>
9 770954 939046

NOTICEBOARD

Peep! Peep! It's a brand New Year and Thomas and all his friends are getting ready for a grand celebration in the Elsworth town square. However, the party cannot begin until Thomas has made a very special delivery. You can find out what Thomas's important job is when you read the story that begins on page 3! Peep! Peep!



THIS ISSUE'S COMPETITION!

Turn to page **14** for another chance to win some superb toys from *ERTL (UK) Ltd's* **Standard Diecast** range of toys, including a **Thomas Remote Control Engine *(see below)***, a **3 Piece Diecast Playset** and a **Thomas Standard Diecast model!**

HOW TO OBTAIN YOUR FAT CONTROLLER'S CARD!

If you would like to receive your very own, splendid **Fat Controller's Card**, just send one **red**, **yellow** and **blue** token together with your details listed below (details need only be listed on any one of the 3 coloured tokens when applying for this offer) plus a stamped addressed envelope to: The Fat Controller's Card Offer, Marvel Comics Ltd., 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2

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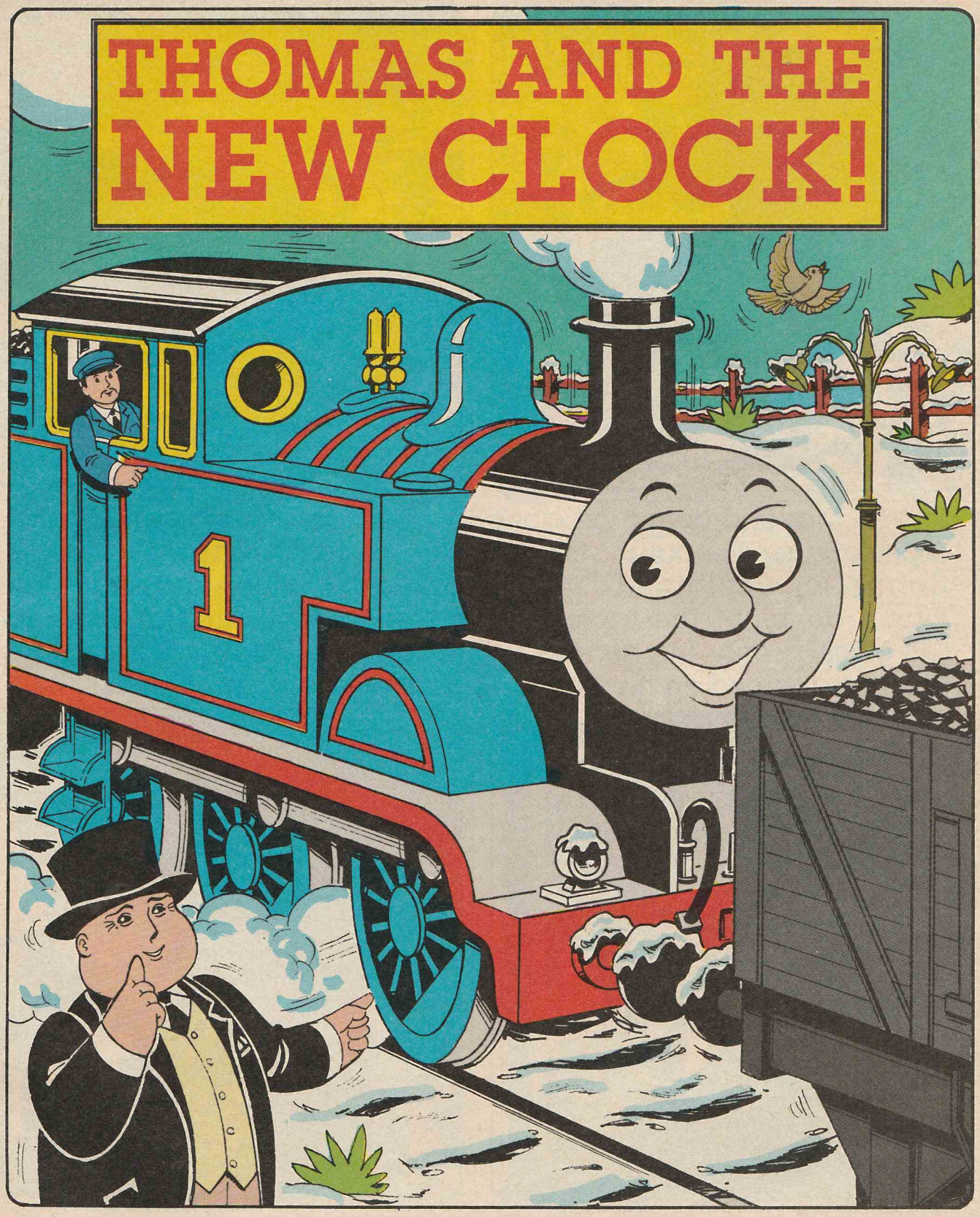
THOMAS TOKEN

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE AND FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD.** Jim Salton, Chariman. Vincent Conran, Managing Director. Paul Neary, Editorial Director. Office of publication: 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2 3DX. All **THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS** material copyright © William Heinemann Limited. All television and merchandising rights licensed by William Heinemann Limited to Britt Allcroft (Thomas), Limited exclusively worldwide. All rights reserved. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this publication with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. Printed in the UK. Distributed by Comag. ISSN 0954-9340

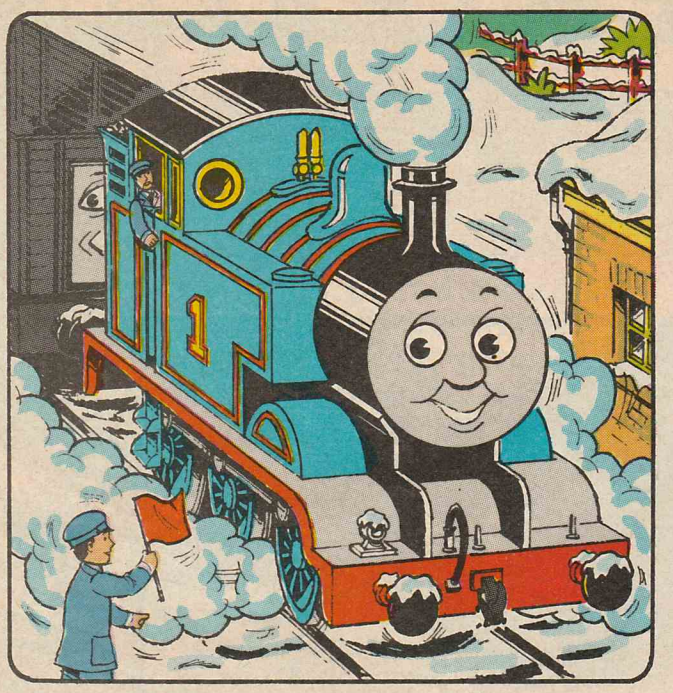
ABC MEMBER OF THE AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

THOMAS AND THE NEW CLOCK!

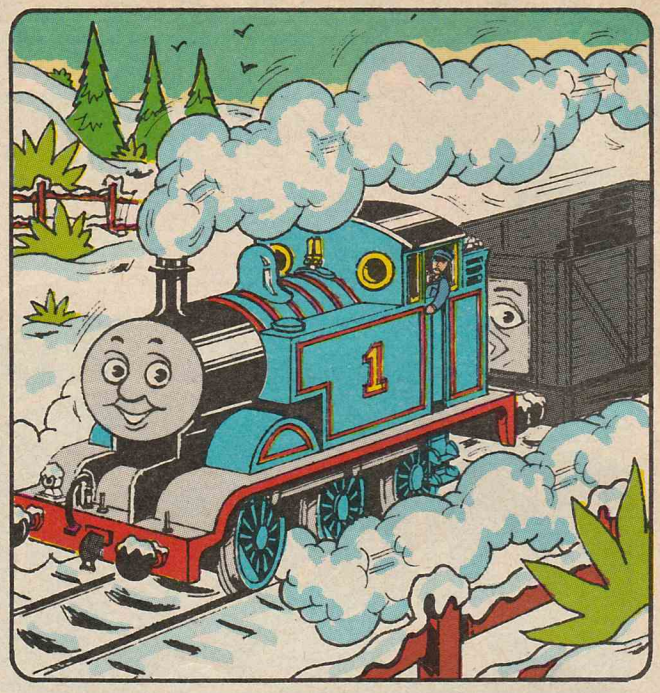


1. It was New Year's Eve and there was to be a grand party in Elsworth town square to celebrate the start of the New Year. All the townsfolk were to attend, including the Mayor.

2. Thomas was shunting trucks in the yard when the Fat Controller came to see him. "I have an urgent task for you," he said. "You must collect a new, clock for Elsworth town hall!"



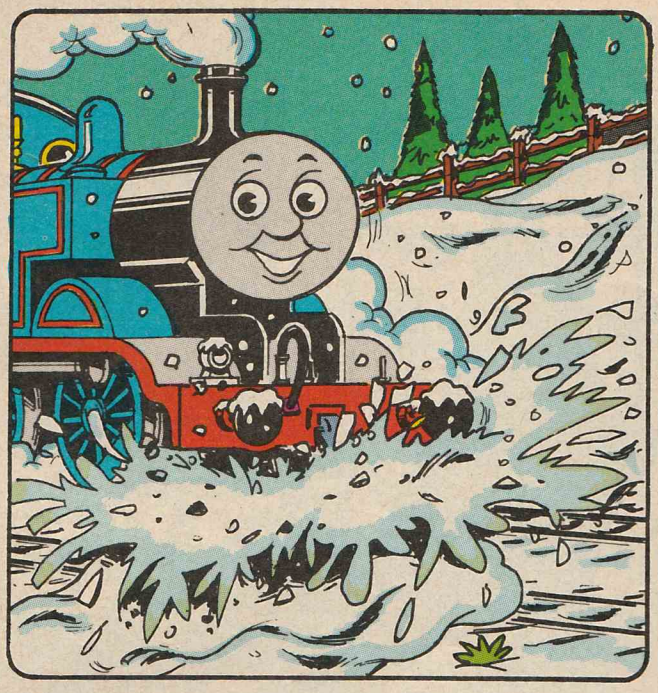
3. "The Mayor ordered the clock especially for the party," the Fat Controller explained. "There was a delay at the factory so the clock is only just ready!" So Thomas steamed on his way.



4. The factory was on the far side of the Island of Sodor. A cold wind blew and snow lay everywhere. Thomas hurtled along the track. "There's no time to lose!" said Thomas.

5. "Workmen are waiting at the town hall for us to arrive with the clock," called Thomas's driver. "Then they will hang it up for tonight's party!" Shortly, Thomas arrived at the factory.

6. The clock was loaded into Thomas's truck and he set off for Elsworth. It began to snow hard. Big snowflakes blew into Thomas's face, making his eyes sting. But he did not slow down.



7. Thick snow tumbled from a slope onto a section of track. The fireman added more coal to the furnace to give Thomas a good head of steam. He rushed clean through the snowdrift!

8. Then Thomas saw a signal was at stop. He pulled up and the signalman called from his signalbox. "The points are frozen," he said. "Botheration!" huffed Thomas. "I can't be late!"

9. Thomas's driver had an idea. He fetched his tea mug from the cab and carefully filled it with hot water from Thomas's boiler. He poured the hot water onto the points to melt the ice.

10. Then the signalman was able to switch the points off and Thomas went again. Thomas arrived at Elsworth Station and the stationmaster fetched the workmen to unload the clock.

11. It was nearly time for the New Year's Eve party to begin. Thomas stood puffing in the station. He saw people tying balloons and flags around the town hall. The workmen used a crane to lift the clock onto a bracket above the town hall. Then Henry arrived with the Fat Controller. He thanked Thomas for his good work. "You are a Really Useful Engine!" he said.

12. The Fat Controller let Thomas stay for the party. Soon the square was full of excited people and the Mayor gave a speech. Everyone thought the new town hall clock looked splendid. At midnight, it chimed loudly. The people cheered, shouting "Happy New Year!" Thomas felt very proud. "Delivering that clock was a race against time!" he grinned.

THE END!

In our next issue: Going rusty!

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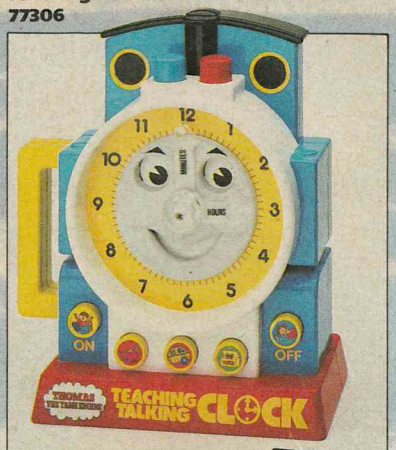

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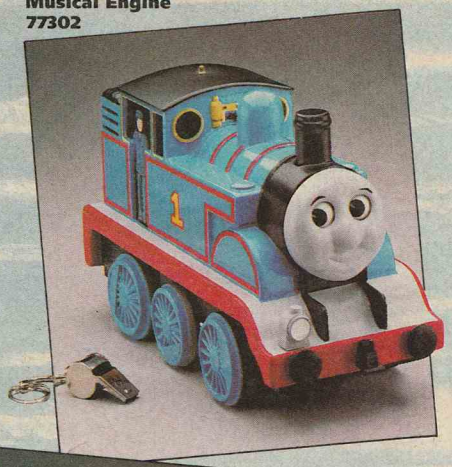

Thomas Remote Control Engine
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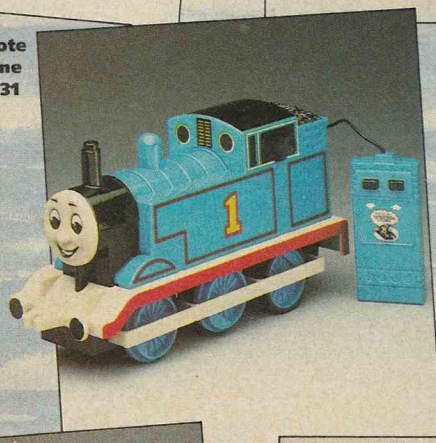

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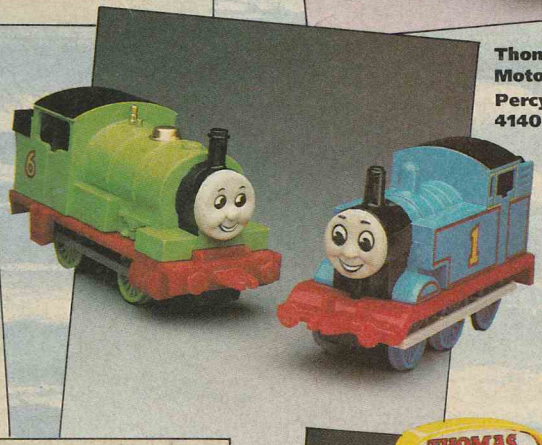

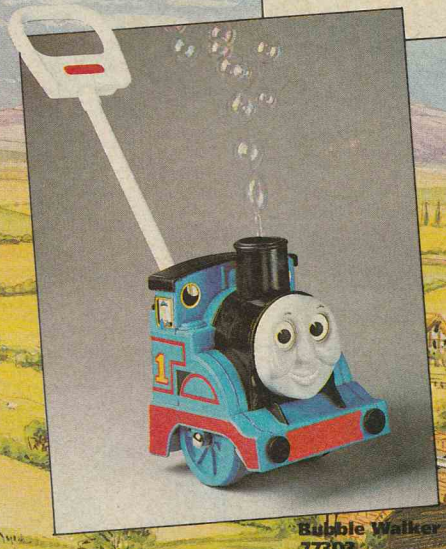

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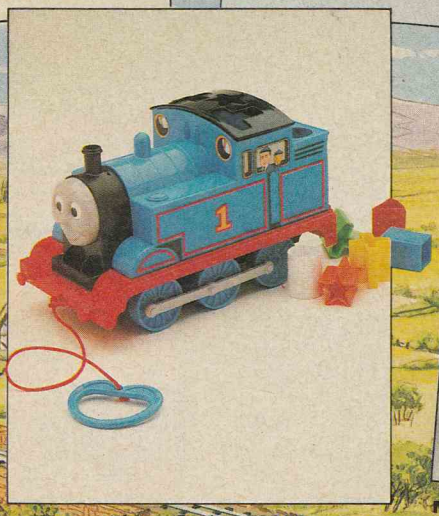

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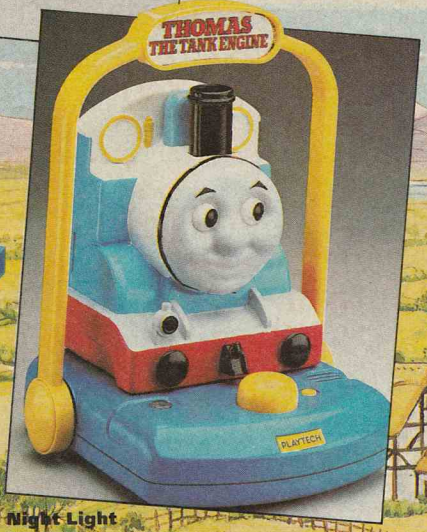

Night Light
77311

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BRITT ALLCROFT

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THE HEAVY LOAD!

One day, the Fat Controller asked James to collect a special cargo from the Big Harbour. The Railway staff put straw all over the floor of a truck and James was coupled to it. Then James rolled grandly out of the Main Station yard. He wondered what the special cargo would be.

As he arrived at the Big Harbour, James saw a ship moored at the quayside. Diesel was shunting trucks nearby.

"Make way, Diesel!" called James importantly.

"All right, all right!" hissed Diesel in his oily voice. "If you ask me, there's something very odd about that ship. It's making mysterious noises!"

Diesel raced off. Next moment, a trumpeting sound boomed from the ship and startled James.

"Wh...what's that?" he gasped. Suddenly, he saw a huge, grey animal on the deck.

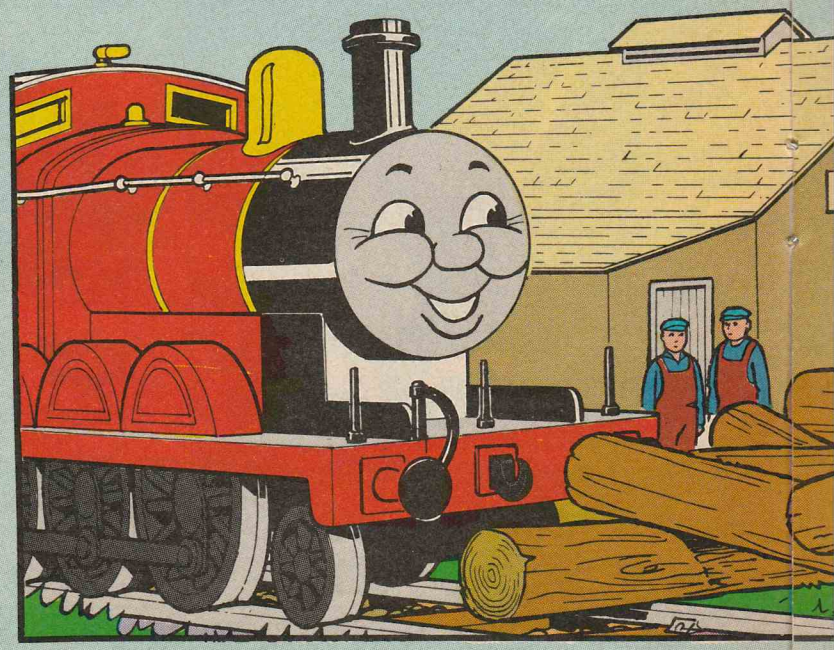
"It's an elephant!" said James' driver. "We're taking it to live in the Safari park on the far side of the Island of Sodor!"

"So that's what was making the noises. It wasn't the ship at all!" sniffed James. "Silly Diesel!"

A man stood beside the elephant and talked quietly to it. Then he walked the elephant down a special gangplank, towards James.

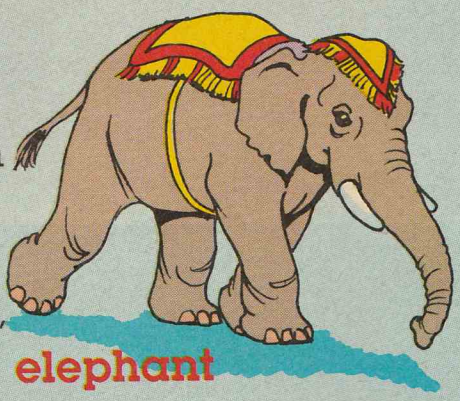
"That elephant is almost as big as an engine," said James. "What a long nose it has!"

His driver explained that it was called a trunk. James's truck was opened and a ramp leant against the side, but the elephant refused to go up it and wandered across the harbour yard instead, calling loudly. When Diesel saw the elephant, he stopped quite suddenly so



he could look more closely.

"Samson wants to say hello to everyone!" said the man from the ship. "He's a very friendly elephant!"



elephant

"I'm a very busy engine!" snorted James. "I can't wait here all day for him!"

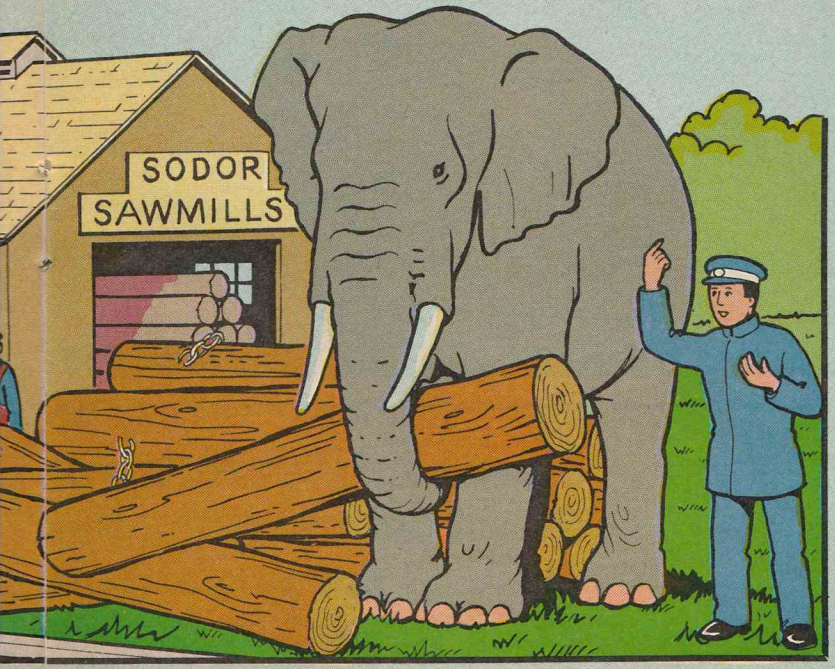
At last, the man led Samson into the truck.

"I'm his trainer," he told James's driver. "He used to be a performing elephant."

James set off impatiently. He huffed and puffed to get up speed.

"An elephant is almost as heavy as an engine!" he said. On the way to the Safari Park, James passed a sawmill. Near the track was a big pile of logs. Suddenly, the chain that held them snapped and the logs rolled towards the line.

"Peep! Peep! Look out!" whistled James in alarm. His driver urgently shut off steam and applied the brake.



James's wheels looked tight and he pulled up with a jolt. He stopped just in time to avoid hitting the logs. They blocked the line ahead.

"Gah! Another delay!" grumbled James. "It will take ages to move all those heavy logs! "

"I'll send for Harold or Terence to help," said his driver.

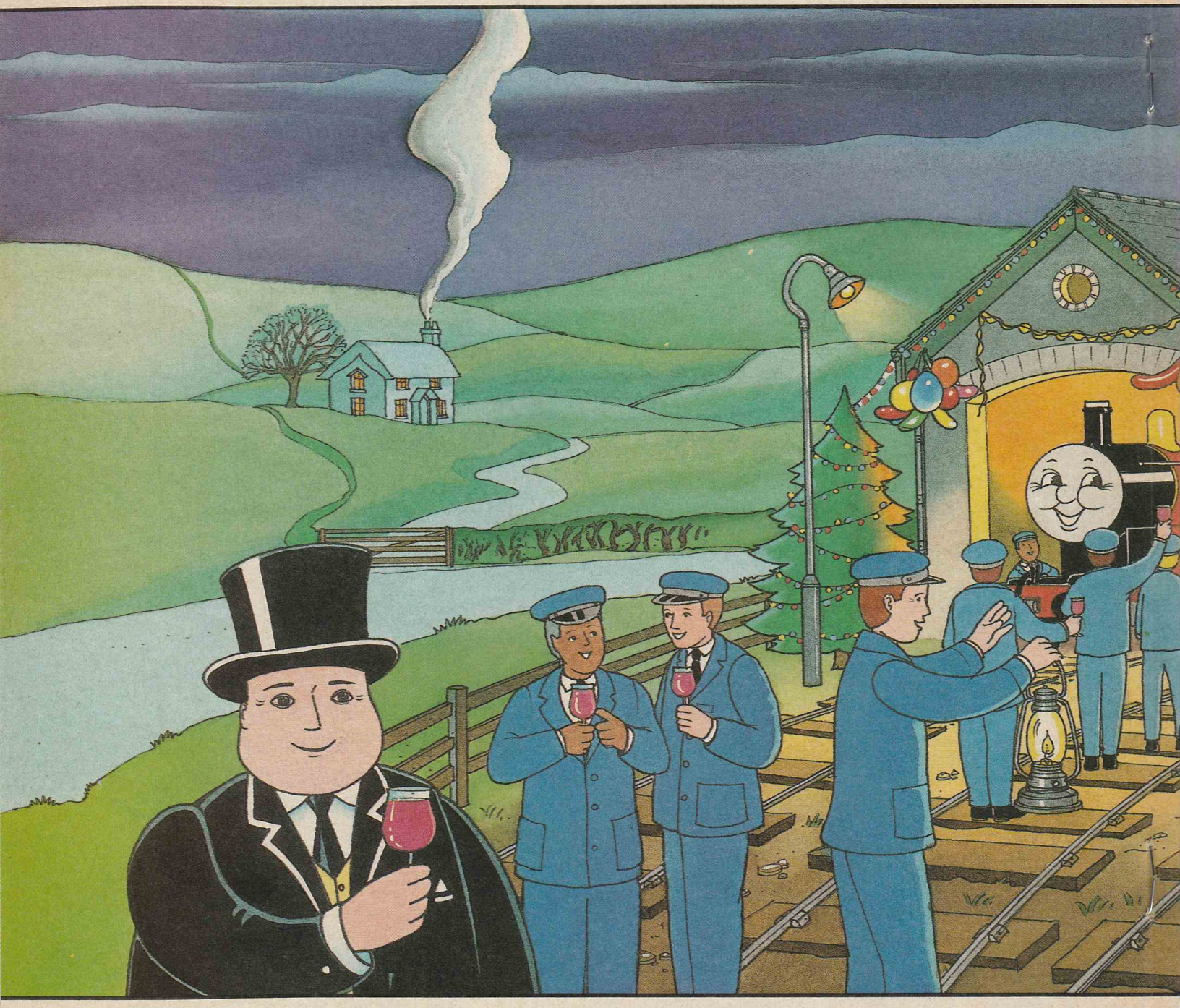
"Samson will move them," called the trainer. He led Samson down onto the track. Imagine James's surprise as the elephant lifted up a log in his powerful trunk. Samson carried it off the line, then put it down safely. One by one, he moved all the logs. He pushed some of them so they rolled along. Soon the track was completely clear.

James was pleased.

"Samson has saved time now!" he said. "It's lucky for me that elephants are almost as strong as engines too!

THE END!

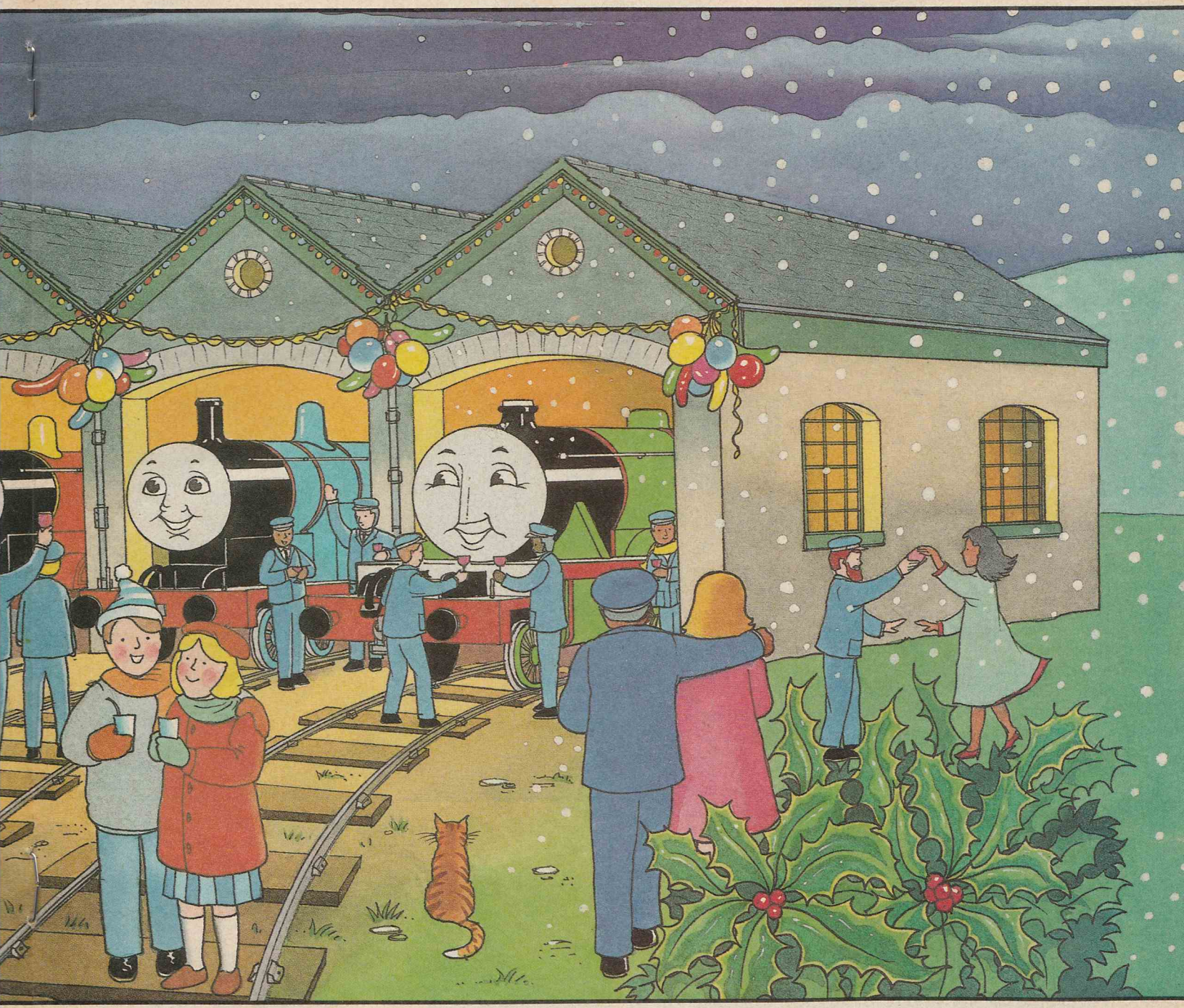
Happy New



Which engines can you see?
What colours are they?
Where are they stationed?
Point to the engine shed!

How many guards can y
What do you think they
Look at the bright balloo
Point to the Fat Controlle

w Year!



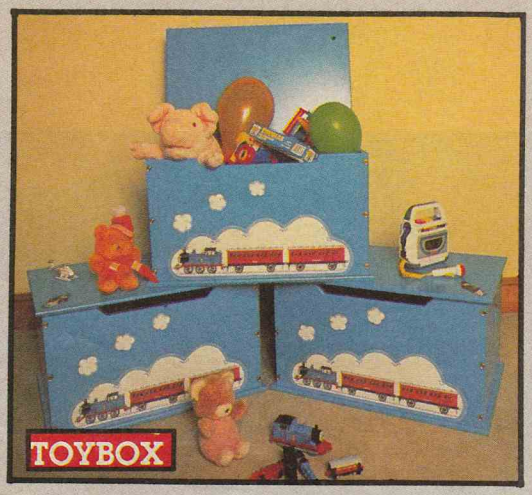
an you count?
ney are celebrating?
alloons!
roller!

Note to parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centerspread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

In our next issue: Clearing the snow!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS



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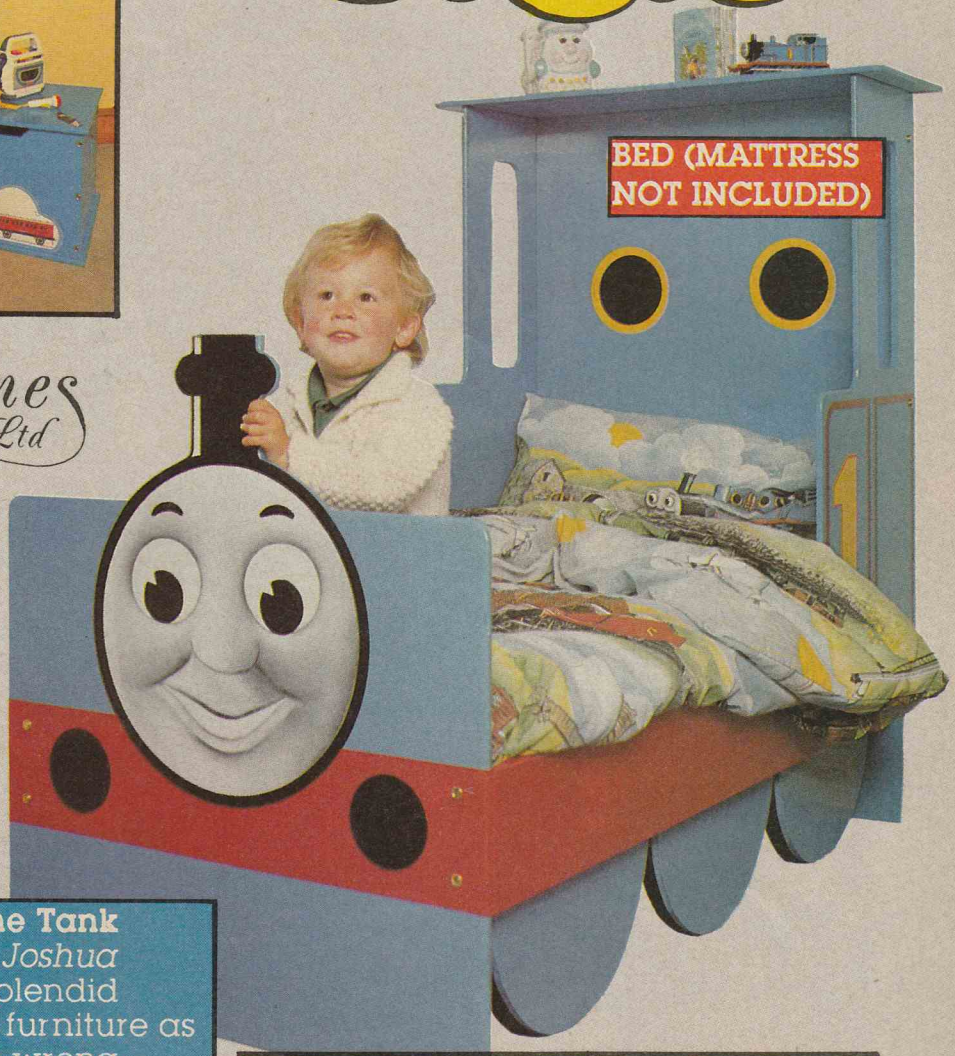
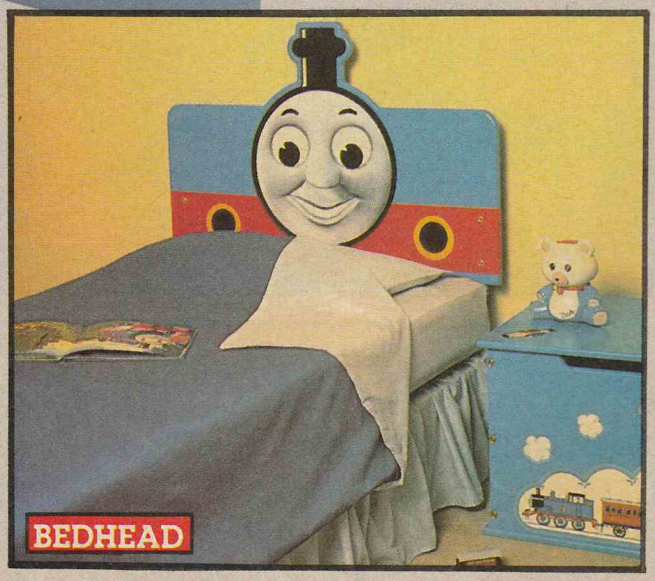


In issue **133** of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** comic, *Joshua Jones Ltd* offered some splendid Thomas the Tank Engine furniture as prizes. Unfortunately, the wrong picture appeared on the competition, so to avoid any confusion we show here the full range of *Joshua Jones/Thomas the Tank Engine Products.*

The **TOYBOX** (shown top left) retails for around **£80**: the **BEDHEAD** (bottom right) around **£55** and the **THOMAS SINGLE BED** (main picture) costs in the region of **£250.** All these products can now be found at **CHILDREN'S WORLD** nationwide, and many other stockists. For further details of your nearest outlet please telephone **0258-858470.**



JOIN THE DOTS!

Join the dots to see what's here, Then wish everybody a Happy New Year!

COMPETITION!

There are more fantastic prizes to be won when you colour the picture below!

1st PRIZE: 12 Thomas the Tank Engine Remote Control Engines!

2nd PRIZE: 24 3-piece Standard sets including Thomas, Annie and Clarabel!

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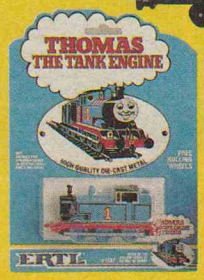
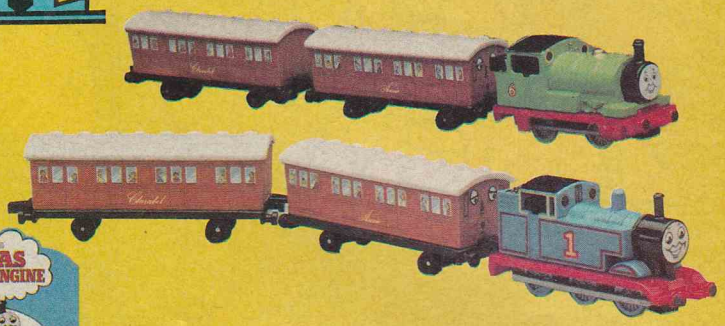
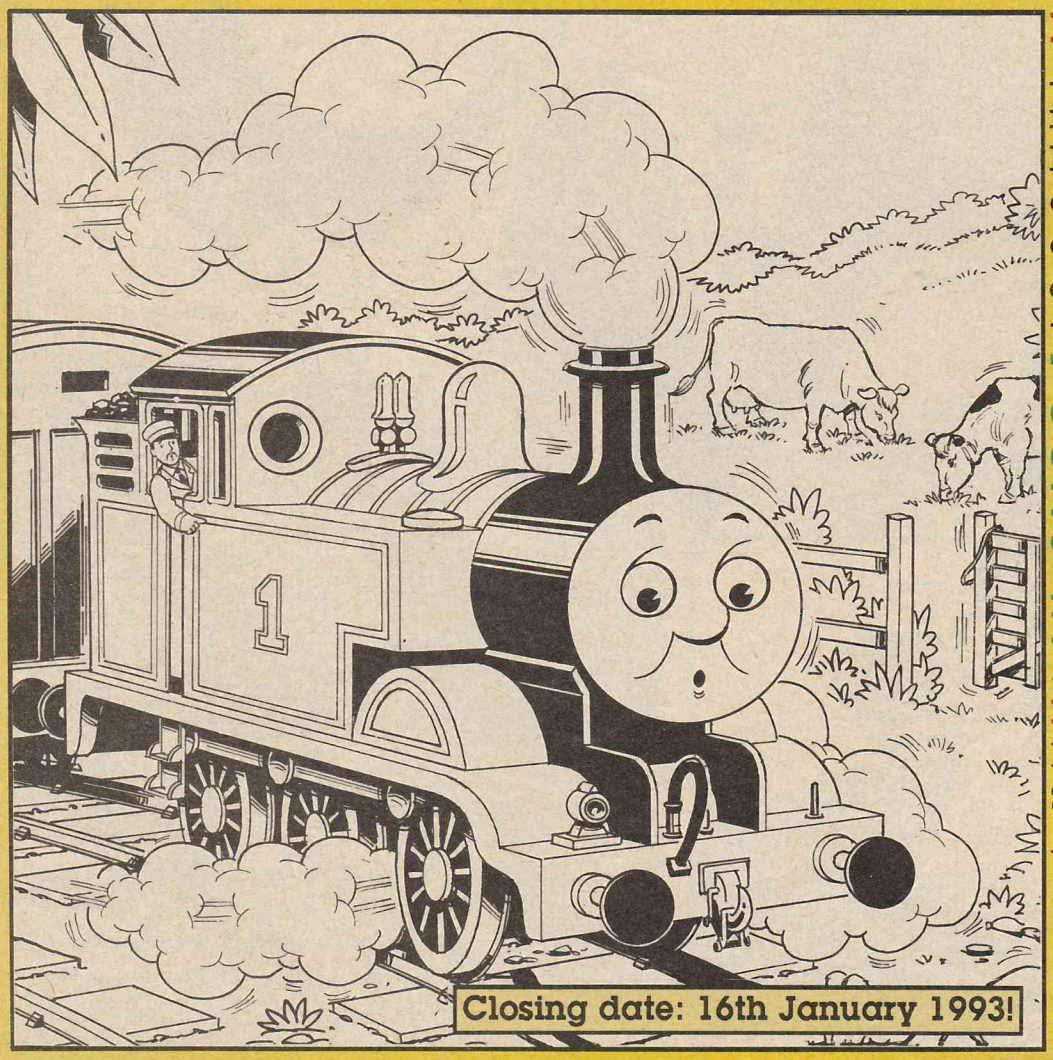




3rd PRIZE: 24 Thomas the Tank Engine Standard Diecast models!



Closing date: 16th January 1993!

How to enter:

All you have to do is take your brightest pencils or crayons and colour the picture opposite then send this page to **Thomas/ ERTL Colouring Competition, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel St, London WC2 3DX.**

PARENT/GUARDIAN

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms

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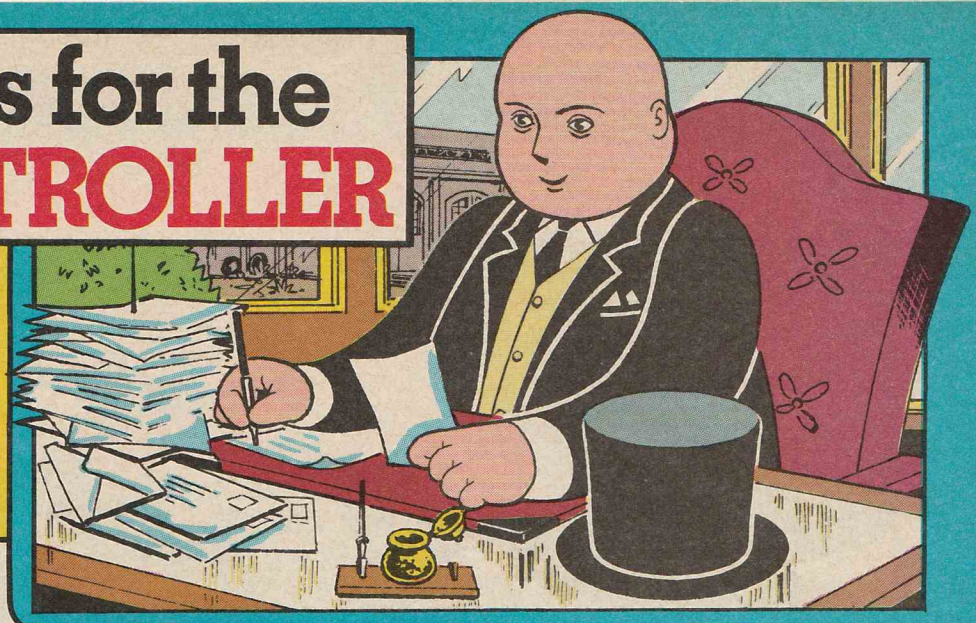
Rules: This competition is open to all readers other than employees and their families of ERTL (UK) Ltd., Britt Allcroft (Thomas) Ltd, and Marvel Comics Ltd. The Editors decision is final and no correspondence shall be entered into.

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

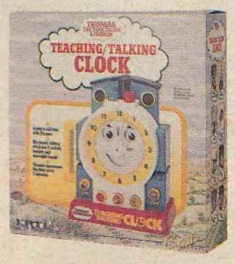
'Special Tasks!'

Dear Fat Controller,
I live in a little village called 'Myddle' near Bashchurch in Shrewsbury and I really love reading about Thomas's adventures! My favourite story is called **'A Task for Thomas'**.

Love from **Phillip Price**, aged 6.

Yes Phillip! That was one of my favourite stories too! I think that both myself and Lady Hatt made Thomas feel that he was a Really Useful engine indeed!

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win this splendid **Thomas Teaching Talking Clock** courtesy of *ERTL (UK) Ltd.*



WONDERFUL RAILWAY!

Dear Fat Controller,
I visited the **'Bluebell Railway'** in Sussex with Mummy, Daddy and my little sister Katie. We rode on a steam train that looked like Thomas.

Love from **Jamie Dumbrell**, aged 3.

*I'm sure you agree that the **'Bluebell'** line is a completely wonderful railway surrounded by beautiful scenery and wildlife. There are so many interesting things to see and do, too!*

FAMOUS COACHES!

Dear Fat Controller,
I know that **Thomas** pulls **Annie** and **Clarabel** but can you tell me who pulls **Henrietta?**

Love from **Christopher**, aged 2.

***Toby the Tram Engine** pulls his coach **Henrietta** and they both work on the quarry line!*

BIRTHDAYS!

Special greetings go out to...

Michael Tweddell (39326), Mark David Turton (34111), Lee Sahm, Louise Dunn (38277), Michelle Plumb, Simon Parry (36425), David Quilty, Thomas Wray, Christy Leigh Williams (38828), David Andrew Sherman, Nickie Hanton (37641), Stephen Gillett (28997), Adam Berrow (36796), Aidan O'Hare, Stephen White and Jack Walker..

If you would like a birthday mention printed in one of our future issues, please send details on a postcard at least **nine weeks** in advance!

Yours
Sir Topham Hatt
The Fat Controller!

Send your letters to:

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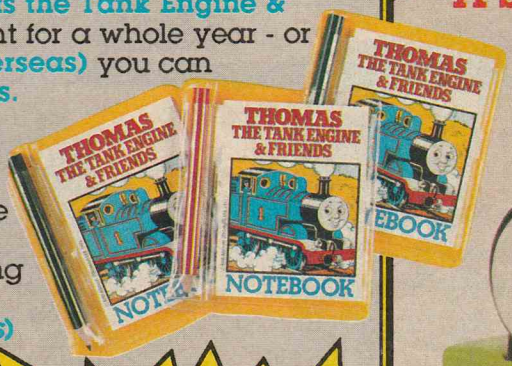

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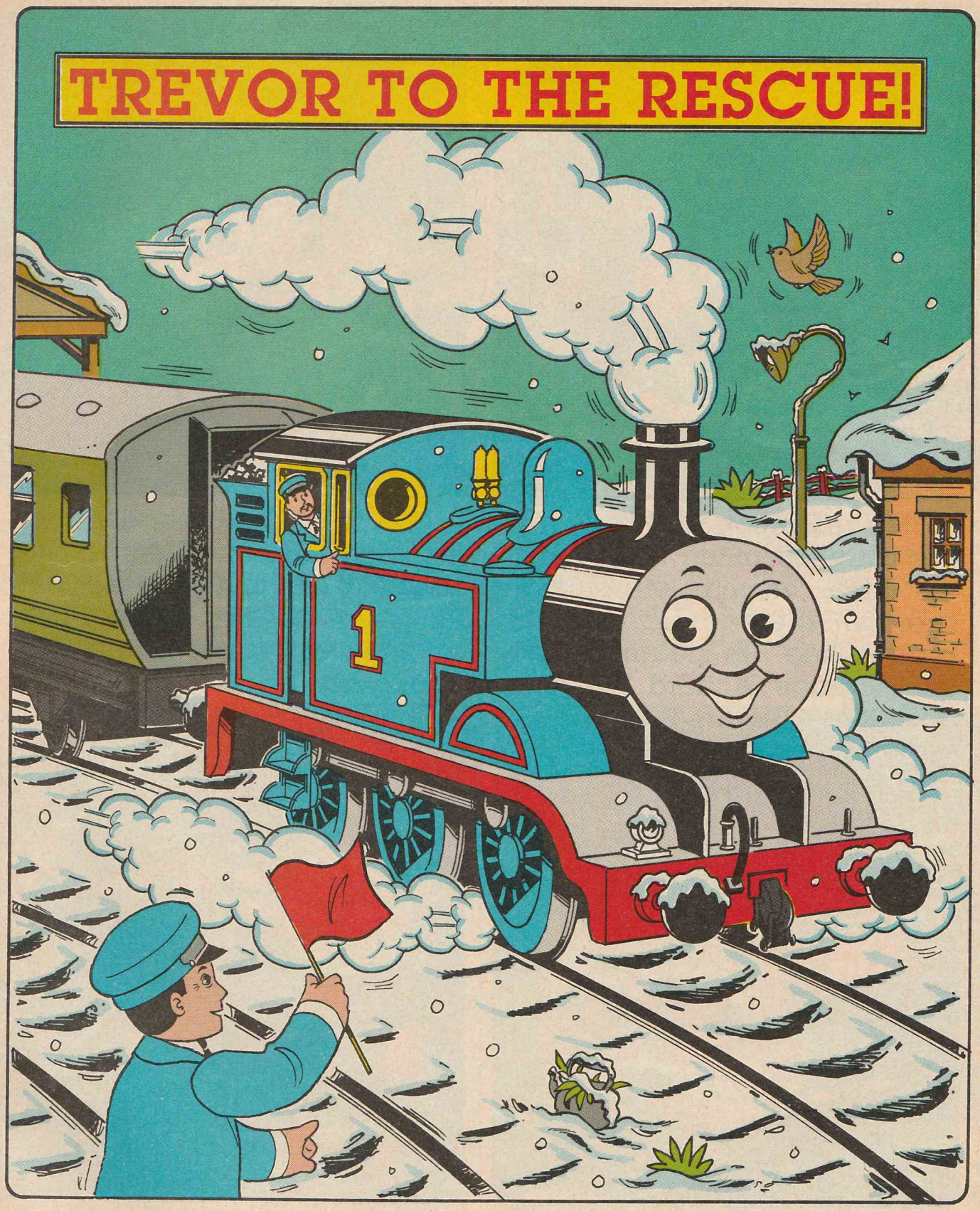
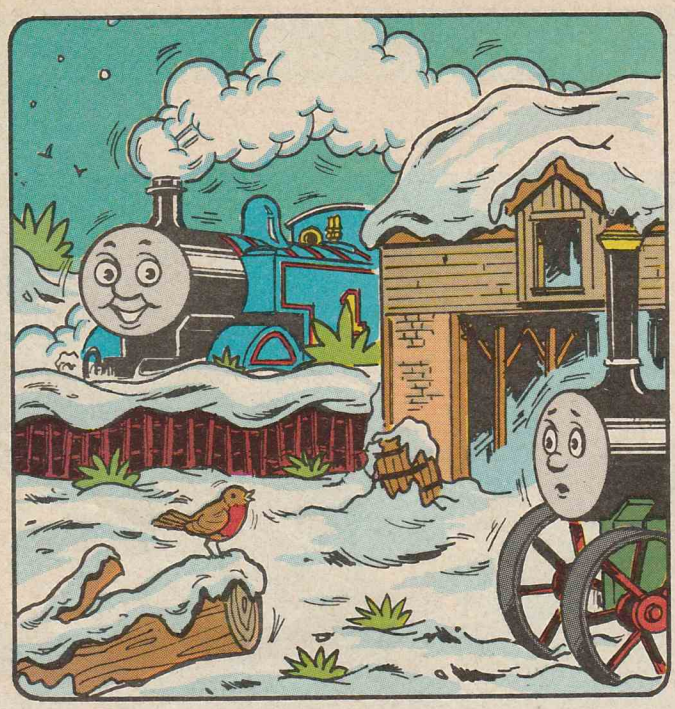
TREVOR TO THE RESCUE!

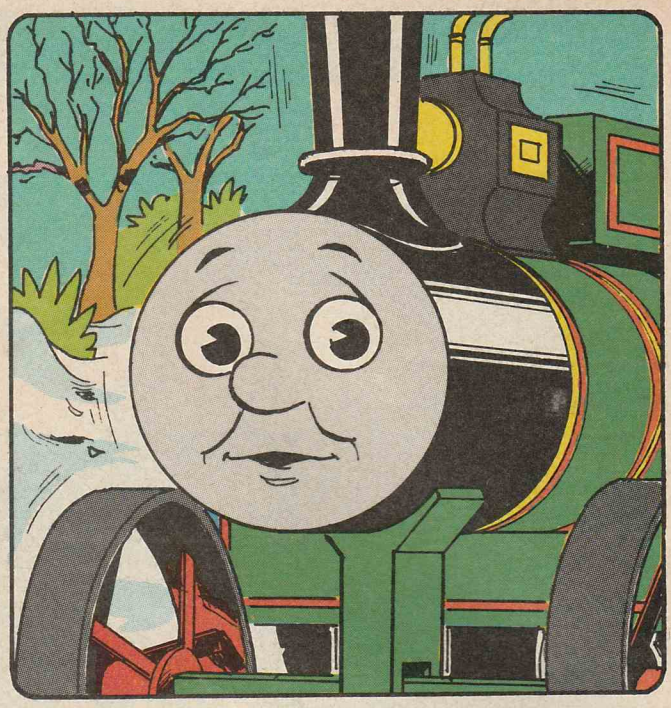


1. One snowy morning in the the New Year, Thomas rolled out of the engine shed to pull the post train. "I have made a New Year's Resolution!" said his driver.

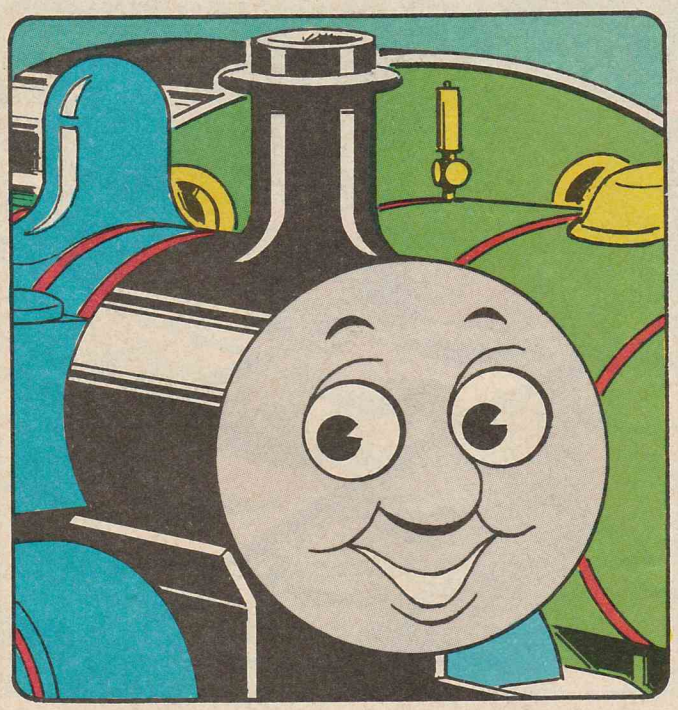
2. Thomas did not know what a resolution was. "How do you make one?" he said. His driver told him a resolution is a promise you make yourself to try to be a better person.



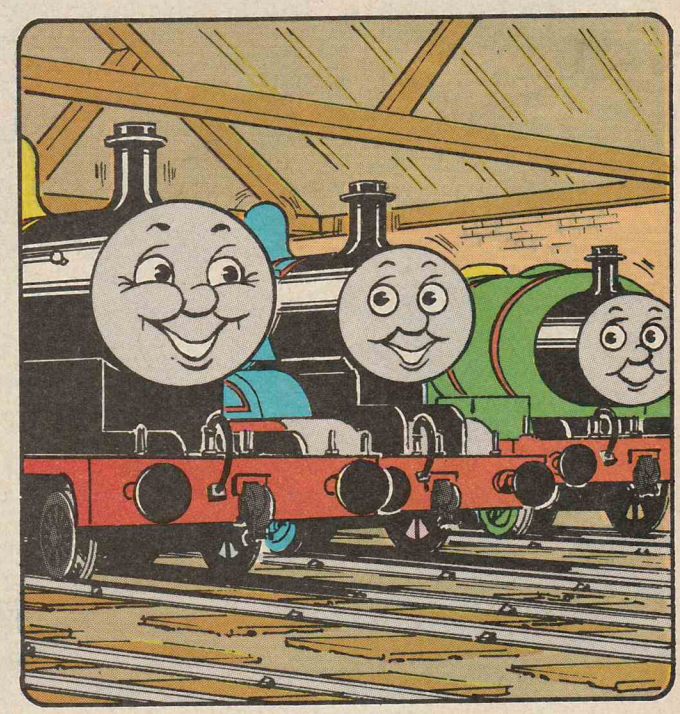
3. "My resolution is to keep my garden shed much tidier!" said the driver. Thomas left, puffing through the snow along his branch line. He steamed past the Vicarage Orchard.



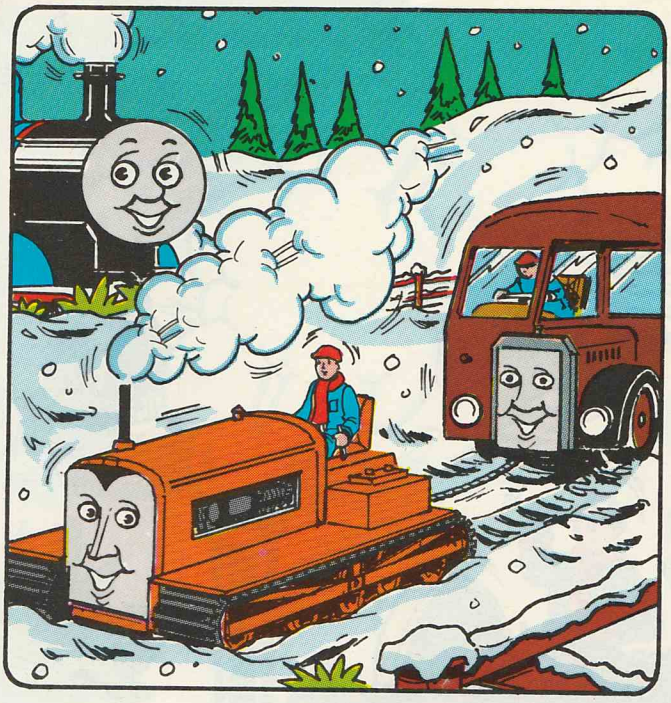
4. Trevor looked out sadly from his shed. "Hello, Thomas!" he called. "I haven't seen anyone for days!" Thomas did not like to think of Trevor being sad and lonely!



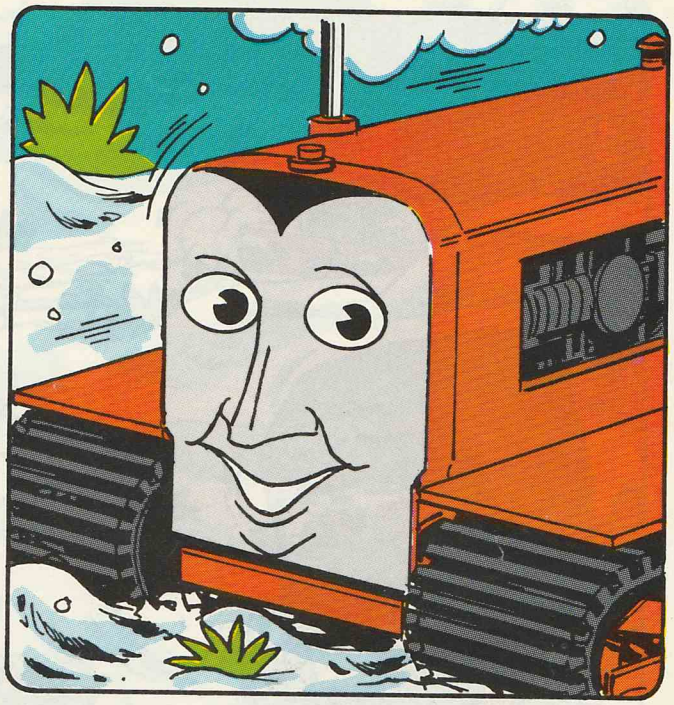
5. Thomas always enjoyed talking to Trevor but the post had to be delivered so he had to leave. That evening, in the engine shed, he told the others about New Year Resolutions.



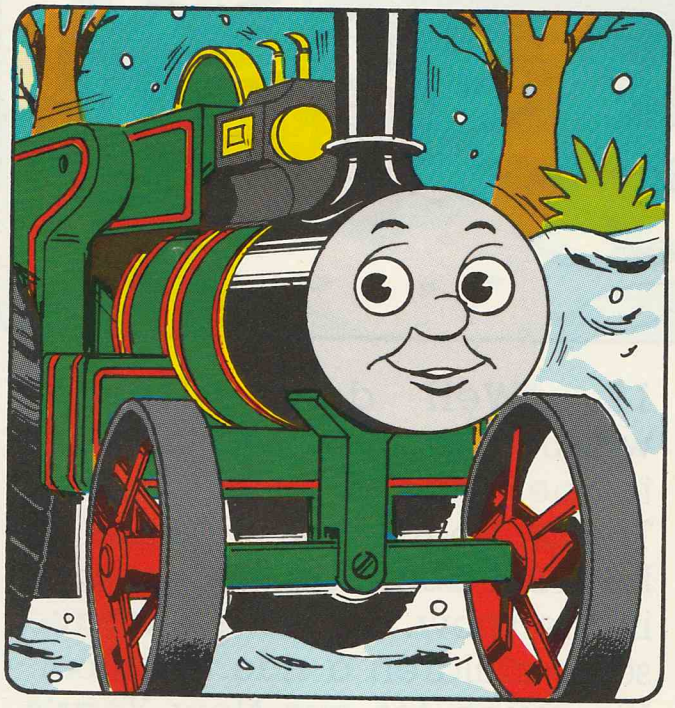
6. "I'll be even more efficient! sniffed James. "We should all make the same Resolution," said Thomas, "to stop and visit Trevor and talk to him whenever we can!"



7. The engines agreed. Next day, Thomas was fitted with a snowplough to clear his line. He spotted Terence the Tractor and Bertie the Bus by a level-crossing.



8. Bertie was stuck in the snowdrift and Terence was pulling him out. "My caterpillar treads grip the snow better than wheels do!" Terence told Thomas.



9. Later, Thomas saw Trevor at the orchard and told him the news. "I'm sure I wouldn't get stuck in snow on the roads," sighed Trevor. "I wish I could help Terence to rescue cars!"

10. Back at the Main Station yard, Thomas spoke to the Fat Controller who telephoned Jem Cole, at the vicarage. When Trevor heard he was to help rescue some cars, he was excited.

11. A van had skidded into a ditch beside a lane, near the engine shed. The driver was unhurt and Trevor went along to the rescue! His huge wheels crushed the snow until it was firm. He didn't get stuck at all! Jem tied a rope from the van to Trevor. He pulled the van on to the road. Then he set off with food for people whose homes were blocked by snow.

12. "Well done, Trevor!" whistled Thomas. "I'm too busy to be lonely now!" called Trevor. He met lots of people as he went about his rescue work in the snow. Trevor even gave some children a ride to school. "So much for our New Year's Resolution to talk to Trevor," laughed Thomas. "He is so busy he hasn't time to stop and talk to us!"

THE END!

In our next issue: Riders and Races!